

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended so as to provide indentations.

Claim 1 has also been amended in an effort to make it as clear as possible, but without changing the scope of the claim.

As thus amended, claim 1 sets forth the structure and operation of the device as clearly as we know how to do so.

Before going through the structure and operation of the device as shown in Figure 3, consider Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 is the initial condition of the parts, in which the plate 9 is extended and the windows 19, 20 in the plate 9 and 21, respectively, are out of alignment with each other. In this condition, the outer sleeve 3 can be rotated counterclockwise, until the end of the groove 11 therein is fully seated in the notch 14 in plate 9. This limits the counterclockwise rotation of sleeve 3 and also locks the plate 9 in its outer position.

In this position, that is, with sleeve 3 in its extreme counterclockwise position, the holes 15 and 16 through which the pills will be ultimately dispensed are in alignment, but no pills are dispensed because the holes 19 and 20 are out of alignment. This is a stable condition of the parts, that is, a rest position during non-use, during which nothing can happen.

But then when the outer sleeve 3 is rotated clockwise, the holes 15 and 16 are brought out of alignment with each other and, because the end of the groove 11 moves out of the notch 14

of the plate 9, the plate 9 is now free to be pushed inwardly against the action of the spring 13. This aligns the holes 19 and 20 so that pills can fall through the aligned holes 19 and 20. But the pills cannot escape from the dispenser, because holes 15 and 16 are now out of alignment with each other in the extreme clockwise rotated position of sleeve 3.

Then the plate 9 is released (you simply stop pushing on it) and the spring 13 returns it to the Figure 1 position, whereupon the holes 19 and 20 are out of alignment but a supply of pills has fallen through them. The pills are not yet dispensed, because holes 15 and 16 are still out of alignment with each other.

Then, with the plate 9 in the Figure 1 position, the outer sleeve 3 can once more be rotated counterclockwise, the end of the groove 11 entering the notch 14 and locking the plate 9 in its outermost or Figure 1 position. Simultaneously, the holes 15 and 16 come into alignment with each other and the pills can fall through: not all the pills, just those pills which were able to get through holes 19 and 20 when holes 15 and 16 were closed. Thus, a measured quantity of pills can be dispensed upon each repetition of the above operation.

A counter 8 is provided, to keep tabs on the repeated operation of the device; but this is not essential to the invention.

With that explanation of the invention, it is believed that claim 1 sets forth the structure and operation of the device as clearly as we know how.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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